



Department of
Toxic Substances
Control

*Preventing
environmental
damage from
hazardous waste,
and restoring
contaminated
sites for all
Californians.*



State of California



California
Environmental
Protection Agency

Fact Sheet, October 2007

Arsenic Cleanup Plan For The Burlingame High School Is Available For Review And Comment



Burlingame High School

In November 2005 and March 2007, the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) mailed fact sheets informing the surrounding community that a cleanup of soil containing PCB (polychlorinated Biphenyls) and lead based-paint residue was being conducted at the Burlingame High School (BHS). The removal of the PCBs and lead was completed in June 2007. The last phase of the ongoing cleanup is the arsenic removal that is proposed in various areas on BHS property. BHS is located at 400 Carolan Avenue in Burlingame.

DTSC is a part of the California Environmental Protection Agency. DTSC oversees soil and groundwater investigations at proposed new or expanding school sites, and evaluates sites for potential hazardous materials or contamination that may pose a risk to school children, the staff or faculty. If contamination is found, DTSC oversees the cleanup of the property.

Public Comment Period

We encourage you to review and comment on the draft RAW for the Burlingame High School site. DTSC will hold a 30-day public comment period beginning **October 5, 2007** and ending on **November 5, 2007**. The draft RAW, dated September 25, 2007, is available for your review at the information repositories listed on page 4 of this fact sheet. All e-mailed comments must be sent to the DTSC no later than 5 p.m. by **November 5, 2007**. Please submit your written comments to:

Kamili Siglowide, DTSC Project Manager
8800 Cal Center Drive
Sacramento, CA 95624
or send an e-mail to Ksiglowi@dtsc.ca.gov

DTSC understands the community's interest in the draft RAW and the proposed cleanup actions. Currently, a public meeting is not scheduled for this project; however, if you feel one is warranted you can request a meeting by contacting Ms. Kim Rhodes, Public Participation Specialist, toll-free at 866-495-5651 or 916-255-3651 or by e-mail to Krhodes1@dtsc.ca.gov. Please state your reason(s) in your request and DTSC will consider your request for a public meeting to discuss the draft RAW.



A draft cleanup plan, also known as a Removal Action Workplan (RAW) is available for public review and comment. Before DTSC approves, modifies, or denies the draft RAW, DTSC will review and consider all comments received during the public comment period.

Elevated levels of arsenic were found in the athletic field located on the southeast portion of the site during the modernization of BHS. Site investigations were conducted between December 2004 and March 2007. The source of contamination at the site is unknown, but may be from the historical use of arsenic-based pesticides at the site. The maximum level of arsenic detected at BHS is 531 parts per million. The cleanup goal for the arsenic is 10 parts per million. Therefore, levels of arsenic found in surface soil could pose a threat to human health and requires cleanup.

The District plans to cleanup the following areas on BHS property:

- The soil in front lawn (between the driveway and sidewalk);
- Parkway (near the front lawn, and the baseball and football fields, between the sidewalk and Carolan Avenue);
- Courtyard;
- Northwest boundary by residential fences;
- Shot put area;
- Several landscaped area; and
- Areas of bare soil adjacent to the track

Proposed Removal Action Workplan

The draft RAW summarizes all of the investigations conducted for arsenic, outlines available cleanup alternatives appropriate for each specific area, evaluates the alternatives and proposes a preferred alternative for the removal action that would prevent or reduce potential risks to public health and the environment. Cleanup alternatives are screened and evaluated on the basis of their effectiveness, ability to be implemented, cost and ability to prevent or reduce potential risk to public health and the environment.

Summary of Proposed Removal Action Workplan

BHS has been divided into seven (7) areas designated for cleanup or remediation activities, Area A through Area G described below (please refer to map on page 5). These seven areas fall into one of four proposed remedies: (1) Complete remediation by excavation and offsite disposal of contaminate soil; (2) limited removal of soil and fill with clean soil; (3) limited removal of soil with a stainless steel gopher mesh barrier and fill with clean soil; and/or (4) cover the area with a concrete barrier.

Description of areas of proposed cleanup remedy:

Area A – courtyards behind the main building; **proposed cleanup:** soil in this area would be removed to a depth of one foot below ground surface (bgs) and disposed at an appropriate offsite facility.

Area B – shot put area, north of the track bordering Oak Grove Avenue; **proposed cleanup:** soil in this area would be removed to a depth of three feet bgs and disposed at an appropriate offsite facility.

Area C – landscape areas surrounding the tennis courts, northwest parking lot, the gymnasium, and the classroom building behind building I near the Peninsula Tennis Club; **proposed cleanup:** add additional landscaping to minimize bare soil. An Operation and Maintenance Plan (O&M) will restrict future disturbance of the soil (see O&M Plan below).

Area D – exposed soil adjacent to the track. This area contains three trees that have been examined by an arborist and show significant structural weakness. Based on an evaluation and recommendation of the arborist, the trees will be removed during the removal activities; **proposed cleanup:** soil in this area would be removed to a depth of two feet bgs and disposed at an appropriate offsite facility.

Area E – northwestern and southeastern portions of the front lawn (i.e. the portions of the front lawn, not between the walkways contain numerous mature trees. An arborist examined the trees and recommended removal of 24 trees already in a state of decline; **proposed cleanup:** No trees are being

removed because of, or due to, this removal action, however, the District has proposed removing five (5) trees from Area E. The tree removal may occur concurrently with proposed removal action activities in some areas. Soil will be removed to the depth approximately 3 inches bgs. A stainless steel gopher mesh will be placed on the floors and sidewalls of the excavation and serve as a gopher barrier, as well as a visual indicator during future excavation activities. Soil would be disposed at an appropriate offsite facility. Since soil containing arsenic concentrations greater than the 10 parts per million will remain in Area E, this area will be included in the Site O&M Plan.

For more information on the District's tree replacement program, please contact the District (Ms. Elizabeth McManus (650) 558-2204).

Area F – parkway between the sidewalk and Carolan Avenue, in the vicinity of the front lawn, softball fields, and track; **proposed cleanup:** involves covering the area with concrete. The concrete will serve as a barrier between arsenic-contaminated surface soil and human contact. The existing cement cap would be removed. A limited amount of soil would be excavated as necessary to create a level concrete surface that matches the adjacent sidewalk. Excavated soil will be disposed at an appropriate offsite facility. A four-foot square around each tree in the parkway will be capped with crushed rock rather than concrete.

A visual marker, such as orange netting, will be placed on the floor of the excavation to serve as a visual indicator during future excavation activities. This area will be included in the Site O&M Plan.

Area G – a seven foot wide area adjacent to the residential fence along the northwestern edge of the former soccer field and tennis courts (near the multi-use building); **proposed cleanup:** soil in this area would be removed to a depth of two feet bgs and disposed at an appropriate offsite facility.

An Operation and Maintenance Plan will be put in place to minimize future exposure of occupants at BHS to arsenic in soil. An O&M Plan ensures that health and safety protocols are observed by personnel who may contact soil containing arsenic concentrations exceeding 10 parts per million.

Former Soccer Area - during site investigations no elevated arsenic was found in the area. Therefore, DTSC has given the District approval to begin work on a future athletic field.

Safety Measure and Proposed Schedule During Removal Activities

DTSC and the District are taking measures to ensure the safety of the students, faculty, maintenance workers, and the public while conducting the removal activities if the proposed draft RAW is approved by DTSC. The proposed schedule of removal activities begins with Area A and Area E. It is anticipated that all removal activities may take up to approximately eight (8) weeks to complete (please reference the inserted map for specific identified areas).

Privacy fencing will be installed prior to the start of all removal activities. The fences will be installed far enough from the working area as to allow room for movement and transportation of excavation to occur, storage of equipment, placement of air monitoring equipment and a buffer zone between the work area and students and staff. In addition to the fences, a Site Safety Coordinator will be onsite during the removal activities to ensure safe and secure work areas are maintained and only authorized personnel will be allowed near the work areas.

Proposed Truck Route

If, the proposed draft RAW is approved, a maximum of 200 truckloads are anticipated to take the contaminated soil to a State-licensed disposal facility. However, no more than 30 trucks per day be allowed to leave the site. The trucks will be operated by a licensed hazardous waste trucking contractor.

Work will occur Monday through Friday between the hours of 7 a.m. and 5 p.m. Truck drivers will make every effort to avoid heavy truck traffic during peak traffic hours.

Trucks exiting the property will:

Exit onto Carolan Avenue, travel north to Oak Grove Avenue;

The trucks will then turn left onto Oak Grove Avenue, then turn right onto California Avenue and travel to Broadway; then turn right onto Broadway and proceed to Highway 101 to an appropriate landfill (see map on page 6).

Dust Suppression

Dust control measures, including water spraying, will reduce dust during the proposed cleanup activities. Air and dust monitoring will be conducted and work will be stopped if acceptable levels are exceeded. Before leaving the site, trucks will be appropriately covered and excess dirt will be removed from the external parts of the truck, including tires.

Public Access

Public access is restricted by security fencing around the boundaries of the specific areas marked for removal. No pedestrian traffic will be allowed where the removal action will take place.

California Environmental Quality Act - Notice of Exemption

DTSC evaluated any possible impacts of the removal action for this project, as required by the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). DTSC has prepared a draft Notice of Exemption (NOE) which states that this removal action will not have significant impacts on the environment. The draft NOE is available for public review, along with other supporting documents in the information repositories.

Next Steps

At the completion of the public comment period, if comments are received from the community on the activities proposed in the draft RAW, DTSC will review and consider all comments before making a final decision on the draft RAW. DTSC will prepare a "Response to Comments" document that consists of all comments received and DTSC responses to the comments. Anyone who submits comments regarding the proposed cleanup activities will receive a copy of the document. Additionally, a copy of the document will be placed in the information repositories. If comments are not received during the comment period, DTSC will approve the draft RAW and the District will implement the cleanup plan.

For More Information

Please contact the following individuals with any questions or concerns you may have regarding BHS and the draft RAW.

For questions regarding the draft RAW:
Kamili Siglowide, DTSC Project Manager, at (916) 255-6527 or by e-mail to Ksiglowi@dtsc.ca.gov.

For questions regarding the public participation process:

Kim Rhodes, DTSC Public Participation Specialist, toll-free (866) 495-5651 or (916) 255-3651 or by e-mail to Krhodes1@dtsc.ca.gov.

For questions from the media:
Angela Blanchette, DTSC Public Information Officer, at (510) 540-3732 or by e-mail to Abblanche@dtsc.ca.gov.

Information Repositories

The draft RAW, CEQA NOE and other related documents may be viewed at the following location:

San Mateo Union High School District

650 North Deleware Street
San Mateo, California 94401
(605) 762-0249

Burlingame Public Library

480 Primrose
Burlingame, California 94010
(650) 558-7410

Department of Toxic Substances Control

8800 Cal Center Drive
Sacramento, California 95826
File Room:
Monday-Friday: 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
By appointment only (916) 255-3758

BHS - Arsenic Remediation Areas



LEGEND

	EXISTING BUILDING
	NEW BUILDING
	AREA A - Approximately one week to complete;
	AREA B - Approximately one week to complete;
	AREA C - Approximately two weeks to complete;
	AREA D - Approximately two weeks to complete;
	AREA E - Approximately eight weeks to complete;
	AREA F - Approximately two weeks to complete;
	AREA G - Approximately two weeks to complete;
	RECOMMENDED AREA OF SOIL STOCKPILE

Privacy fencing will be installed prior to beginning the removal activities to ensure unauthorized personnel are not allowed near work areas.



Notice to the Hearing Impaired Individuals

TDD users can use the California Relay Service at 1-888-877-5378, please ask to speak with Ms. Kim Rhodes at (916) 255-3651.

Anuncio

Si prefieres hablar con alguien en español acerca de esta información, favor de llamar a Jesus Cruz, Especialista en Participación Pública del Departamento de Control de Sustancias Tóxicas. El número de teléfono es (916) 255-3315.

To view the Burlingame High School draft RAW, NOE and other related documents, please visit the following website: http://www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov/public/profile_report.asp?global_id=41820008 and click on Community Involvement.

BHS - Transportation Route

